REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-9 remain pending in the application. Claims 3, 4, 6 and 10 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention.

The disclosure stands objected to as noted in the Office Action. The disclosure has been amended and accordingly this objection should be withdrawn.

Claim 1 has been objected to as noted in the Office Action. Claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner and accordingly this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,565,941 to Kaneko. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reason that Kaneko does not teach or disclose the single shaft and the same electromagnetic mechanism as the claimed invention.

The present invention is directed to a flash device (strobe) which is capable of opening when the illumination is insufficient. It utilizes a charged electromagnetic valve to hold the built-in flash unit at a closed position. When the insufficient illumination is detected or the open instruction is received, the electromagnetic valve is discharged to let the flash unit pop-out by the elastic of the spring (see page 5, lines 9-11, and 20-24). Moreover, the shaft 4 therefore rotates to release the clip by the elastic force generated by the spring (see page 5, lines 11-14).

U.S. Patent 5,565,941 to Kaneko is directed to a strobe mechanism system. In Kaneko, when the electromagnet 130 is energized, the strobe is released. When the electromagnet 130 is de-energized, the strobe is then held by the attraction of the permanent magnet and the plunger 132b (see column 3, lines 46-47, 49 and 52-54). Furthermore, the engaging portion 132b of the link lever 132 pushes the catch lever 128 counterclockwise to release the strobe (see column 3, lines 54-58), which is different from the single shape of the present invention.

In view of the above, Kaneko does not teach or suggest the single shaft utilized in the present invention. Kaneko utilizes two levers (the catch lever 128 and link lever 132) to conduct the release. Particularly, Kaneko releases the strobe when the electromagnet is energized, which is quite different to the present invention that the flash unit is released when the electromagnetic valve is discharged. When the electromagnetic valve is charged, the flash unit is held at the

closed position in the present invention. In this case, Kaneko does not teach or disclose the amended claim 1. Amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Kaneko and should be allowable.

Since claims 4, 6 and 10 are canceled by this amendment, the rejections made are moot.

Due to the dependency on the independent claim 1, the claims 2 and 7-9 should be allowable over Kaneko as well as on their own merits.

Since claim 3 is canceled by this amendment, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,609 to Hosokawa et al. is moot.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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